

The family Izinkalidae fam. nov. (Crustacea: Amphipoda: Lysianassoidea) in Australian waters

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Abstract

The new lysianassoid amphipod family Izinkalidae is established and the genus *Izinkala* is reported from Australian waters for the first time. One new species, *Izinkala griffithsi* sp. nov., is described.

Key words: Crustacea, Amphipoda, Lysianassoidea, Izinkalidae, *Izinkala griffithsi*, Australia, taxonomy, new family, new species

Introduction

Based on collections from the RV *Meiring Naude*, Griffiths (1977) described the remarkable lysianassoid amphipod genus, *Izinkala*, from deep water off Natal on the east coast of South Africa. At the time he mentioned the ‘potential zoogeographical interest’ of these collections. Recently Azman & Lowry (2009) described *Boltsia myersi* from north-eastern Australia, a previously endemic family from eastern South Africa. In this paper we describe *Izinkala griffithsi*, a second family-level taxon previously endemic to the eastern South African area. Myers & Lowry (2009) indicated a biogeographic relationship between these ancient Gondwanan continents. The description of an Australian representative of the Izinkalidae strengthens this link.

Material and methods

The descriptions were generated from a DELTA database (Dallwitz 2005) to the lysianassoid genera of the world. Material is lodged in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). The **bold** parts of the descriptions are diagnostic characters which distinguish each taxon in at least two respects from every other taxon. Standard abbreviations on the plates are: A, antenna; G, gnathopod; MD, mandible; MP, maxilliped; MX, maxilla; P, pereopod; U, uropod.

Izinkalidae fam. nov.

Diagnostic description. Head concealed, slightly longer than deep. *Antennae* calceoli absent. *Antenna 1* with callynophore in male; accessory flagellum article 1 not forming a cap. *Antenna 2* peduncular article 3 without distal hook. *Epistome and upper lip* [unknown]. *Mouthpart bundle* subquadrate. **Mandible** incisors well developed, asymmetrical, left convex, right straight; left lacinia mobilis probably absent; accessory setal row absent; **molar absent**; palp inserted mid-way. *Maxillae 1* and 2 vestigial. **Maxilliped inner and outer plates absent**; palp 4-articulate, slender; article 4 vestigial.